

The Sun

WILLIAM M. LAFAN.

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The Campaign for New York.

"The only possible danger to the Republican party in Ohio," says Senator FORAKER, "is the possibility of overconfidence on the part of the Republican voters." The fusionists in this town are in no danger from that familiar old enemy, "overconfidence." What- ever stimulation there is in underconfidence is theirs. They know that they will need all the votes they can get. Suppose that now they stop feeding their grudges and showing their gift for sarcasm and set in to get those votes.

When Mr. JEROME recovers from surprise at the unpopularity of telling the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, he will take a hand in the shiny against the common enemy. He can't keep out of it.

He or any other Democrat or any Republican or independent who doesn't love Mr. Low for his beautiful eyes can find more engaging personalities on the fusion ticket. Mr. Low is not the whole ticket or administration. Has not that administration been, on the whole, a good one? Even if you give it as many bad marks as its most bilious critic would set down against it, has it not been a marvel of efficiency and of regard for the public service compared with what Tammany has been in the habit of giving and is eager to give again?

The issue in the campaign has been put clearly and forcibly by Mr. LOUIS STERN:

"Our schools, our charities, our property, our public and private welfare, our comfort in moral and civil life, are threatened with exposure to a return of conditions which would color our cheeks with shame and bend our heads in apology."

Against that spoliation and that disgrace the election of the fusion ticket is the only barrier. Whatever the mistakes of Mayor Low and however much less satisfactory he may be to others than to himself, considerations of that sort do not amount to a pin's fee. It's he or Tammany again.

When these little local irritations become less acute, men who don't want to see Greater New York bled and skinned by Tammany are not likely to injure themselves simply because they don't like Mr. Low.

A Matter of Life and Death.

The Citizens' Union is sending out a very significant circular of "facts about the Health Department." They are facts which deeply concern the people of New York, for they relate to matters which are first of all in the estimation of every mortal man. The City Club has also issued a pamphlet in which these facts are presented in great and convincing detail.

The sources from which this information comes may prejudice against it those people who have tired of professional "Reform" and "Reformers"; but, as the information is statistically indisputable, no such sentiment has any pertinency to the situation described and the comparisons made. The fact cannot be gained that since the Health Department of New York was rescued from Tammany control and influences there has been a large and steady diminution in the death rate of the town; and that means that many thousands of lives which would have been lost under the previous system of management have been saved.

When Tammany was driven from possession of the Health Department, in 1901, and Dr. ERNST J. LEDERLE was appointed Commissioner of Health by Mayor Low, the death rate of the whole city of New York was 20.02 in the thousand annually. In the year 1902 it was reduced to 18.74, and for the summer months of the present year, the season when usually it had been highest, it was still further reduced. The rate for the whole of this year is likely to be about 18, much the lowest death rate in the history of New York; and the reduction means the saving of thousands of lives annually.

In 1902 the number of deaths was actually 2,726 less than in 1901, in spite of the increase in the population. Deaths from consumption were less by 582, and among infants from diarrhoea by 913. The great test of the efficiency of sanitary regulation is afforded by the death rate of children under 5 years of age. Though the population had increased by over 100,000, the number of deaths among this class was about the same. Out of the twenty-five classified causes of death the mortality from fifteen was lessened.

How great the diminution in the summer rate was, in comparison with that of past years, may be seen by these statistics: Last summer in Manhattan the rate was 18.37. In the summer of 1870 it was 20.78, and in 1880 it was 21.29. Formerly every summer in New York was marked by "laughter of the innocents" so appalling that it gave to this city a conspicuously evil reputation among the chief cities of civilization. Now our death rate is brought down to that recorded in the cities of the world most distinguished by the efficiency of their health administration. The rate in London in 1901 was 17.5, as against 20.02 in New York in that year and about 18 this year, according to present indications.

Moreover, the absolute accuracy of the death statistics of New York may be said to be even more unquestionable than that of London's. The showing, too, is the more favorable to New York, be-

cause here the conditions are less favorable to health. The crowding of population in the congested districts and the increase by immigration, bringing many thousands of unaccustomed foreigners strange to our conditions, are far greater in New York. The most densely populated district of London contains only 200,000 persons to the acre, and all told, 2,004,000 persons to the acre, and all told, only 130,989; but in New York between a quarter and a fifth of the whole population is more densely crowded, and on 703 acres within its limits there were over 447 people to the acre in 1900. The most crowded district of London, the West Central, contains only 623 acres and the number of persons per dwelling is only 11.5. On Manhattan Island there are only two districts, the Twenty-fifth and Twenty-seventh Assemblies, where there is a lower average, and these districts are rapidly increasing in population. Even in Brooklyn generally the average of persons to a dwelling is almost as great as in the most crowded district of London—10.2, as against 11.5.

The diminution in the death rate of New York under the able, the honest, the truly scientific administration of the Health Department by Dr. LEDERLE, supplemented by the equally efficient administration of Dr. WOODBURY, the Commissioner of Street Cleaning, is an evidence of advancing civilization of which every citizen has reason to be thankful and proud.

Taking the death rate of New York for 1903 at 18, it compares thus with rates in the great cities of Europe: London, 17.6; Liverpool, 22.3; Paris, 18.6; Berlin, 18; St. Petersburg, 24.1; Vienna, 19.7; Madrid 32.8; Rome, 20; Budapest, 18.7. Considering the conditions peculiar to New York already pointed out, the rate here is not surprisingly low; and its tendency since 1901 has been so steadily toward diminution that next year we may expect it to be even less than it is now, provided the Health Department is kept out of the clutches of Tammany.

Two Ways of Putting Sam Parks Back Where He Was.

The triumph of SAM PARKS at the Kansas City convention of structural iron workers was all that his heart could desire. No greater evidence of fidelity and admiration could have been recorded by his associates in that trade organization. No more signal personal victory has ever been won by a leader at a crisis in his career. Three men only in the great convention expressed by their votes any doubt of SAM PARKS'S entire worthiness to represent before the world the cause of honest labor, to lead that cause and to prescribe for its well being. The International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers stands by SAM PARKS, precisely as his local union, No. 2, of New York, has stood by him.

No wonder the gratified leader exclaimed, when the vote of confidence was announced to him, "This puts me right back where I was!"

But where, in a certain event, does it put the men who have voted confidence in his honest merit?

SAM PARKS has been convicted of levying blackmail in the name of labor and has been sentenced to imprisonment which the statutes provide as the penalty for the crime. He is out of his convict cell and convict garb on a stay of proceedings, pending an appeal. He is under indictment for not less than four other offenses, two of them similar to that of which he has already been convicted. If his first conviction and sentence are set aside, on any technicality or for any other reason, by the process of appeal, a long future of criminal prosecution stretches out before him. The labor organization which stands by him, the honest if misguided laboring men who have voted at Kansas City so to do, will be with SAM PARKS in the prisoner's box whenever a criminal charge against SAM PARKS comes before a jury.

And suppose this possible future of companionship in the lower criminal courts during the prosecution of the four indictments is cut short by a decision of the higher court also putting SAM PARKS back where he was, namely, in Sing Sing, for the extortion of \$200 from JOSEPH P. PLENTY, in the name of honest labor?

The Abyssinian Project.

Whether the rumors concerning Consul SKINNER'S projected commercial invasion of Abyssinia have in them much or little truth and meaning, the incident serves to illustrate an American idea which has altogether too much vogue. That is that the best markets for us lie in faraway corners of the earth. Nothing could be further from the fact, and the idea is, moreover, clearly discredited by trade statistics.

No doubt there is trade in Abyssinia. There are some 3,500,000 people living in a country about three times the size of the State of New York. They are exceedingly raw trade undeveloped, but their trade wants are equally limited. They are a pastoral people, not even addicted to agriculture beyond the supply of their domestic needs. Commercially, they belong somewhere back in the time of ABRAHAM, with his flocks and herds. It is true that a railroad has just been completed from the coast to Harar, but beyond that and around it are the plains with their cattle and the mountains with their goats and the caravan route.

Coincident with the presentation of the news of Mr. SKINNER'S trip there appeared an extract from a letter written to the *London Times* by an American contributor. Its subject was American trade conditions. The writer of the article declares that the United States is sacrificing trade opportunities "by trying to make a place for products in crowded communities instead of in outside and neutral markets." The Abyssinian project should give the gentleman much pleasure and no little hope for the future commerce of his country.

Yet, in looking over the records for the fiscal year 1900-1902, we note that our exports to the "crowded community" known as the United Kingdom amounted to about \$550,000,000, while our exports to "outside and neutral" China, with ten times the population of the United Kingdom, were \$25,000,000. That may be ac-

counted for by assuming that China is too "crowded." Another contrast may be cited by noting our export of \$175,000,000 to "crowded" Germany, and \$10,000,000 to Brazil, which is "outside and neutral" but not crowded. The writer's argument is further refuted by our sales to Canada of \$125,000,000, to Mexico of \$42,000,000 and to little Cuba of \$28,000,000. "Outside and neutral" Madagascar, with a population about equal to that of Abyssinia, bought \$30,000.

The key to the whole matter is entirely plain, and we have frequently called attention to it. The place to get trade is where trade exists, among a people whose wants are developed and varied. Mr. SKINNER'S method is quite correct. He goes to investigate trade conditions, to ascertain the requirements and to determine the proper channels for supplying them. But why go 8,000 miles to Abyssinia to investigate an undeveloped and at best a limited trade when within half the distance there is a developed and rapidly growing market of infinitely greater possibilities, about which we know not much more than we do of the Abyssinian?

The writer in the *Times* gives a partial answer to this question when he says that "the manufacturer in America has indefinite aspirations for foreign trade rather than concrete ambitions." The Abyssinian project presents itself as a "concrete ambition." The pity of it is that it should be so lonely and so generally misdirected. The same expense incurred and an equal effort expended in any one of a dozen other countries would promise far greater returns.

Theatres and "Stars."

The most casual observer of theatrical doings cannot fail to note the significant features of the opening of the season. The most successful entertainments from the point of view of the box office are those of the lightest and most humorous sort, while attempts at serious drama are encouraged by a "select few." Of course the theatrical managers will not admit this, because that compels a confession of failure somewhere. We do not expect them to admit it.

Furthermore, the most successful entertainments are those in which the play is offered for public consideration as secondary to the principal actor engaged in its performance. In other words, theatregoers in these days are not invited to go to see a play, but to see some particular actor in a part. The play has become in many cases simply a vehicle for the exploitation of the individuality of the actor.

That amusement seekers do interest themselves deeply in the personalities of performers cannot be denied. They have always done so. In earlier times the "star" used to go about the country and appear in the plays of his repertory with the stock companies of the theatres which he visited. The stock actors were overworked, and performances never acquired the finish and minutely detailed stage business of to-day. But the personal element was just as much in evidence.

Then came the period of the great stock companies in the large cities and the production of new plays. For a time the play was actually the thing, and we remember the old Union Square Theatre by "The Two Orphans," "The Danicuffs" and similar plays, rather than by CHARLES THORNE and SARAH JEWETT. The company in that house was all stars. Was it the long runs or some other cause that subsequently stole from the stage the splendid force, the infinite variety of expression of the actors trained in the old school? Or was it the introduction of the genteel society play of the Belasco-DeMille type? Whatever it was, the stock company soon degenerated into an organization containing one or two actors who towered over the others, and the speculative managers, who control the theatre of to-day fully appreciated the importance of this fact they set about "working it."

They began to take the most potent personalities out of their companies and send them out as stars, surrounded by troops of actors much inferior to those in which these same personalities were originally displayed. So the potent personalities seemed to grow in strength.

Then new personalities had to be pushed forward in the companies which were left behind, and so the managers raised up for us a second crop of stars, just about as rich and nutritious as second crops usually are.

Then they began to separate these seconds from the companies and send them out as stars. What is the result? Nothing but stars. Every little actor is twinkling away in a play of his own, and the play has to be a mighty thin one so as not to obscure his radiance. The stock company has sunk to a level of sleek mediocrity, and playwrights lullid out sweet sentimentalities or polite badinage.

Of course this state of affairs is not going to last. Nothing ever does in the theatre. The wheels will revolve and something new will come to the top. But in the meantime the theatre in general is educating the public to make a big do-over some very little people, who are entertainers rather than actors, and to forget that there is such a thing as great dramatic art.

A Clean Out Union Issue.

If the walking delegates who are trying to bring the plant of the Steiway & Sons company into their control succeed in calling out on strike the firm's employees on Oct. 1, as they now threaten to do, the men will enter upon the struggle with full knowledge of what it involves.

The requests made in this case are that the employees shall compel their employers to become members of the Piano and Organ Workers' International Union and that the employers shall pay a bonus of 50 per cent. for work on Sundays and holidays. Nothing could be clearer or more explicit, and nothing could be more completely within the rights of the employees than to press these requests upon their employers.

The answer of Steiway & Sons to these demands is equally clear. Briefly, it is "absolutely refused." By the company, and the attention of the employees is directed to the rules governing

them, in order that they may know exactly what the company's position is. These rules prohibit any employee from interfering with another to compel or prevent his membership in any organization, under a penalty of dismissal, and promise that every employee "who conforms to these rules and regulations, behaves decently and performs his work to the satisfaction of his employers" will be protected in his employment by the company.

Thus there is no room for doubt as to the attitude of each party to the dispute. The company declares its intention to run an "open" shop, as it has in the past, employing men regardless of anything but their behavior and their ability. The labor leaders say that the men employed must be members of a particular organization and that the wage scale must be changed.

It is unfortunate that in every dispute the issue is not so clearly defined as in this one.

Socks for Statesmen.

Another great moral, political and economic issue has been raised. The Hon. JOHN DUNFEE, member of the Democratic State Committee for the Onondaga Reservation, has defined the permissible limit of the cost of a Democratic statesman's socks.

The Hon. FREDERICK W. THOMPSON, candidate for the Democratic nomination for Mayor of Syracuse, has been accused by unscrupulous rivals of being a "silk stocking."

The Hon. JOHN DUNFEE "hurls back" the hell-loathed lie and at the same time instructs Democrats in their duty as to socks. "I never wore socks that cost over 20 cents myself," Mr. DUNFEE cries with just indignation, "and I don't believe Thompson ever did. That is enough for any man to say."

More than enough for a man who does not seek to put the sock above the man. The Hon. JAMES K. MCGUIRE, the Silver Sage of Syracuse, never pays more than a quarter for two pairs of socks, when he is running for office.

Yet even Mr. MCGUIRE has not set his foot into the path of true Democratic simplicity. The words of the Silver Singer of the Ozarks surge into his memory:

"There's other Kansas statesmen
 As opulent in gait,
 But JERRY went to Congress
 'Cause he wore no socks at all."

The Hon. JERRY SIMPSON has fallen from his high estate and become a plutocrat, but, with his prophetic and sockless feet, he points the way to greatness.

It is cheering to find that the fishermen are at last inclined to follow the advice of THE SUN. In behalf of the hook and line men, and other men, too, the A. M. H. of Boston has begun suit in the United States Circuit Court at Trenton, N. J., against the owners of pound nets. Repeatedly THE SUN has exposed the wasteful character of pound nets and called attention to the fact that they constituted an obstruction removable by the Federal law.

Efforts were made in the New Jersey Legislature to cut down their operations, but nothing was accomplished there.

Now the case is up to Uncle Sam. The stationary nets along the Jersey coast extend from two to three miles from land, and they are so numerous that they have been compared to the rungs of a gigantic ladder. With such machines in operation the chances for fish to reach New York waters are small indeed, as the season now drawing to a close has amply proved.

Of course it will be argued that nets must be used to supply the markets. That is true, but there is such a thing as too much of a good thing. Food fish should not go to manure the land, even though the fishermen had a right to the preservation of it, and the markets should be supplied with fish taken alive and not with fish taken dead out of the pounds.

But the question to be decided in the United States Circuit Court at Trenton, is, have people any right to travel in yachts or in launches along the New Jersey coast, or must they keep off three miles or so from shore, outside of the Federal Government's maritime jurisdiction, to accommodate the owners of stationary nets?

Yesterday, on the news that the lifetime of the Hay-Herran treaty had expired without action on the same by Colombia, shares in New Panama Canal Company went up from 70 to 74 and closed at about 73.

It is this company, the intending seller of the United States of its franchises and properties, that the destructive and powerful statesmen of Bogota have been trying to maul.

So far as the stock movements in Paris signify anything, they indicate an unshaken belief that the inter-oceanic canal will be way of Panama and not by way of Nicaragua, for nowhere is it now better understood than in Paris that there will be only one canal and that the one canal will be constructed and controlled by the American Government.

"Why is it," inquires a correspondent, "that army officials so steadfastly ignore these modern means of individual rapid transit?" meaning the bicycle, the motor cycle and the automobile. "Is it not time the Washington authorities awoke to the fact that for very many uses there exists a safer, swifter, more silent, more enduring, more economical means of individual transportation than the horse?"

It cannot be said that the military chivalries of this country have ignored the possibilities of the machines in question as auxiliaries in the army. There have been during the last two or three years indications of their appreciation, to some extent, of the value of these modern inventions as demonstrated in France, Great Britain, Germany and other countries. What our correspondent wishes to know, doubtless, is why Uncle Sam has allowed his contemporaries abroad to outmaneuver him, so to say, in putting the cycle and the automobile to a thorough test.

There has been talk in the United States of official sympathy with the recent efforts in Europe has been feeble, to say the least. Many believe, however, that the attitude of the War Department in this respect has been misunderstood, and that the next few years will furnish some interesting revelations.

HOW POTENT IS "LABOR'S VOTE?"

An Attempt to Exhibit It as Decisive in a Presidential Campaign.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—It has been said that even a coalition of all the trade union forces would not necessitate a serious; that the entire labor union vote in the country is not over 2,000,000; that 10 per cent. of the 80,000,000 population of the United States, or 8,000,000 people, are all who are directly dependent, through family or commercial relations, upon trade union labor.

But, studied in connection with past Presidential elections, it is apparent that even these figures may become of very great import in a campaign. For such comparison it is obvious we must go back of the Bryan era. There is in the vagaries of that fantastic party spree no basis for sane calculation. To get quite beyond the zone of fancy, we may go back to the Cleveland-Blaine campaign of 1884.

How many Republican votes went to Mr. Cleveland there is no means of knowing. There were enough of them to elect. Mr. Blaine lost by narrow majorities New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Indiana, West Virginia, Delaware and Maryland. And yet probably there never was a candidate of greater personal popularity than he. The noise and the hurrahing all through the campaign were his. The votes at the polls were Mr. Cleveland's.

Suppose the Democrats next year were to throw Bryanism and all taint of Bryanism overboard, and on a conservative platform put a conservative candidate, one whose name stood for security and not alarm to business interest. In the next Electoral College 239 will be a majority. The solid South, with Maryland, Delaware and West Virginia, will furnish 169 of these. New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and Indiana would add 75 more, making a total of 242, or two more than enough to elect.

Now, as is asserted, 10 per cent. of the population is affiliated with trade unionism, and if 6 of the 10 per cent. are voters, then New York has 65,000 labor union votes, Connecticut 5,000, New Jersey 11,000 and Indiana 15,000. If only half of these votes in the States named were thrown against the Republican candidate this case might be critical. When Mr. Harrison defeated Mr. Cleveland in 1888 he lost New Jersey and Connecticut. He carried New York by a plurality of only 13,000 and Indiana by only a little over 2,000.

Now, if 65,000 labor union votes were thrown against the Republican candidate in New York and Indiana would not the chances of the Republican candidate of 1904 carrying these pivotal States be greatly imperilled?

INDIANAPOLIS, Sept. 22.

THE EX-SLAVE PENSION BILL.

Mitchell Says He Never Used Hanna's Name to Aid in Its Passage.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24.—President Mitchell of the negro organization known as the National Industrial Council, who is under investigation by the Assistant Attorney-General's office of the Post Office Department, charged with illegally using Senator Hanna's name in soliciting subscriptions to aid the passage of the ex-slave pension bill, introduced by Mr. Hanna "by request" at the last session of Congress, made a statement to-day denying that he ever used Mr. Hanna's name or that the purpose of the bill was to aid in the election of Mr. Hanna.

"I do not mean to question the veracity of the Post Office Department, but I do mean to say that I never used Mr. Hanna's name in any way to aid in the passage of the bill. I am a crowd of mean, imposturous scoundrels, taking advantage of Mr. Hanna or the people who do not know him, to get the bill passed. The newspapers have all along been misinformed by our enemies. This entire proposition is political and partisan. The Republican party is behind the bill. I have letters and proof from white men high in authority at Memphis, Tenn., that a certain Republican leader was in the habit of writing letters against me when I paid a tribute to the Confederate soldiers as our best friends. While I am not a Confederate soldier, I am a Democrat and ought to be so. I mean that the public may know that I am not a Confederate soldier. I have no foundation except as I have mentioned."

"UNFAIR."

The Views of a Workman Who Has Worked for Seventy Years.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—A merchant or tradesman is said to be unfair if he sells anything to anybody who is not permitted to work for him. In the same way, a man who is a strike of "a war," to enforce their demands. A citizen who enlists in a company of State troops is said to be unfair if he serves the State in suppressing riots. A man who is in progress of a strike in any of our courts is said to be unfair when he seeks in motion the machinery of the law to prevent violence or suppress wronging by strikers or strike sympathizers.

A man or woman who strikes upon a street car when a union has been formed that it shall not be run, is also said to be unfair. When a young lady in St. Louis disobeyed the mandate of the street car strike, she was stripped naked in the street in broad daylight.

When a man in Chicago attempted to cart his own merchandise in his own wagon, with his own horse, during a strike of teamsters, he was set upon in public and brutally murdered. Only a few days ago a workman in the employ of D. M. Ryan, in Indianapolis, was murdered as he rode in a trolley car. He was shot by a man, working in a trolley union shop. He has since died, a martyr to the cause of personal liberty.

The principle of the United States was classed as unfair, because it is said that Miller should be reinstated in the Government bakery at Washington, where he had been discharged by a man of the trades union.

Students to be expelled from school because they are not members of the trades union, and their children, from school because the parents are unfair.

What liberty is left to us when those who commit such outrages are not punished? No matter if the unions are only one-twentieth of the whole people, their feet are upon the necks of the Church and of every political party. We must bow down to them and serve them, and their consequences. The world is a very different place from what it was when the "blessings of good government" must be preserved, but with an unbroken observation that this "good government" must be of the unions, by the unions, and for the unions. The unions are the only authority that can be exercised by consent of the unions. When any right or privilege of any body conflicts with the rights of the trade unions, it must be given up. The unions are supreme. It is they who must be obeyed.

When I first entered the ranks of those who toll for a livelihood, more than seventy years ago, there was not a trade union in the world. Now they are setting in their authority everywhere, asserting the mastery over all of us. How shall we escape from it?

NEW YORK, Sept. 24.

Ariadne and Bacchus.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Ariadne's name, if my memory serves me, is associated with that of Bacchus in the classical mythology. Would it be too much to expect this fact, as well as the latter story, if the Helianth emblem of the name should be sent to grace the oracles of the An- cients upon the arrival of their guests?

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 24.

Unavoidable.

Mrs. Knicker: So she is a good housekeeper? Mrs. Knicker: Yes, she says she hates to think that her ancestors are dust.

Public Benefactors.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Fulton, Jerome, Nadai and Low. They help the weary days to go. They lend a very strong hand. A touch of the spark of flame. Oh, were it not for such as they. How dull the papers day by day! Nothing but figures, ledgers, law. Nothing but Minutes—Men all strive.

That sort of Majority campaign. Would give a healthy man a pain. But Fulton, Low, Nadai, Jerome. They make New Yorkers feel at home.

NEW YORK, Sept. 24.

TRUE PROPHETS AND FALSE.

In Weather Prediction It Is the Man Behind the Hygrometer.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—A recent contributor to your columns, recognizing the inability of the Washington weather bureau to forecast the weather with a degree of certainty commensurate with the object for which the Weather Bureau was established, suggests that the remedy is to be found in a larger appropriation from the public funds. We object.

The present condition of the Weather Bureau is like that of the girl at boarding school who failed in her course. The teacher was advised to take her daughter home. "What does she lack?" asked the fond parent. "Capacity," was the laconic reply. "Oh," replied the mother, "if that is all, her father will buy one."

What the Washington Weather Bureau lacks is "capacity," the ability to formulate rules based upon the laws governing meteorological conditions and to apply them to the conditions reported by the observers.

It is not necessary to give elaborate instructions to the subject in hand. Of what use is it to have a weather bureau, if it is not to be used by unscientific neophytes in a mechanical and arbitrary way? Of what use is it for Prof. Henry to perambulate Washington photographing all sorts of cloud formations and weather charts of all kinds in the business of forecasting?

I, too, knew, "poor Kirkham" of New Orleans, if it was such a marvelous genius at forecasting, he should have been kept at the business. I also recalled your own one of the "stepping stones" of the "Chicago" at Chicago. Upon one important occasion he failed, with that progress, city of the supposed of a blizzard. The town was buried in snow. The next day's press made it known that the weather bureau had predicted "variable winds" as usual. As a punishment Frankfield was exiled to the States.

One of the best forecasters in the service a few years ago was Mr. Gerritt. Originally a Cincinnati man, he discovered that he had both a genius and a love for meteorology, so he made his own and puns of "stepping stones" of the "Chicago" at Chicago. Upon one important occasion he failed, with that progress, city of the supposed of a blizzard. The town was buried in snow. The next day's press made it known that the weather bureau had predicted "variable winds" as usual. As a punishment Frankfield was exiled to the States.

It is not money which makes the mere go with things meteorological. The automatic registering instrument which records the velocity and pressure of the wind, the temperature, the rise and fall of the barometer, the amount of rain, and the amount of the snow, are all the things which are needed. The crux of the whole matter is, how to explain the data when they have been collected, how to draw scientific conclusions from the mass of facts. J. BUTLER FULLER-WALKER, BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Sept. 21.

A Republican's Opinion of the District Attorney.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Having read your editorial under the caption "Memorandum," I cannot help thinking that every citizen, regardless of party affiliations, must instinctively admire the upright, straightforward way in which Mr. J. J. Rogers has set his position. He has disclosed the spirit of an honest man.

This high character in civil affairs is essential to the good health of municipal government.

Duplicity is not to be found in our District Attorney. Suspicion of his motives has no place in the public or private estimation of the man. His courage and his frankness appeal to all lovers of sound government and sound politics. Where his friends and his enemies are anxious to help him up by his hands.

The fearless possessor of these qualities was primarily responsible for fusion victory two years ago. The Citizens' Union cannot afford to ignore the fact that he is now.

We need more Jeromes.

NEW YORK, Sept. 14. A REPUBLICAN.